change on p 2

NSC BRIEFING

5 March 1958

NORTH AFRICA (short)

I. In Tunisia Bourguiba—in face of public impatience and suspicion—willing to accept Murphy proposals as first phase toward rapprochement with France.

    A. Gaillard, while not rejecting them outright, indicates they not entirely acceptable.

II. In Algeria rebel upsurge continues especially near Tunisian frontier.

    A. New influx of Algerian refugees into Tunisia—*now ended*—Tunisians claim some 7,000—tell atrocity stories.

III. In Morocco fighting in Sahara reportedly ceased on 25 February with rebels hiding out and probably reforming to fight again.

    A. Relations with US seem to hand in balance.

    B. Rabat making new attempt to break French dominance in area:

        1. Has reiterated request that US prevent French use of Port Lyautey as entry point for material—French recently shipped military supplies through there.

    C. US aid and base negotiations not going well.

    D. Meanwhile, King preoccupied with need to end Algerian war.

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IV. In France Gaillard apparently hopes to "spin out" good offices for prolonged period, maneuvering to stall parliamentary rebellion.

    A. Rightist demands for troop reinforcements to Algeria reflect military pressures to save Algeria at all costs.

State Dept. review completed

B 2. Cabinet has empowered him to ask confidence vote on his
compromise offer which involves *on the military budget* further squeeze of already
compressed air force and navy budgets.

C B. Gaillard could fall next week on constitutional reform, but upcoming Easter recess make all-out attack politically unpracticable.

D C. Speculation on De Gaulle again current.

E D. Increasing indications of military dissatisfaction with the government's North African policies.

    1. Rightist politicians are seizing on the army's dissatisfaction to support their demands that the government adopt extreme policies.

    2. US ambassador Paris considers conditions ripe for further incidents "perhaps grave ones" in North Africa because of danger of military taking action into own hands